GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4995
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Archaeological Survey of India for enlarging its activity in marine Archaeology;

(b) whether ASI has fixed any annual target to upgrade museums in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Government for various activities of ASI during 2004-2005 and funds proposed for 2005-2006 ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) The Marine Wing in the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 2001 and took up archaeological exploration and identified areas for excavations. During the season 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, the Marine Wing of ASI carried out exploration work at Mahabalipuram, Bay of Bengal and excavation in collaboration with Indian Navy of a shipwreck, Princes Royal in Lakshadweep waters in the Arabian sea. Offshore and onshore explorations were also taken up at Elephanta Island, Kaveripattinam, Pondicherry, Arikamedu, Mahabalipuram.

During the current season (2004-2005) the excavation has been taken up in the explored area of sea as well as offshore of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu in collaboration with Indian Navy.

To enlarge the academic environment the Marine Wing organized an International Seminar with the Indian Navy on Maritime Heritage in March 2005.

(b) & (c) The upgradation of the Archaeological site museums is a continuous process and various items relating to the public amenities, better display and the publication of popular literature on museum objects are taken up from time to time.